



A YEAR IN REVIEW

2025



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HISTORY OF THE TWO-EYED SEEING PROGRAM

Two-Eyed Seeing is a guiding principle for relationship building, co-learning, and integrative science, translated by Mi'kmaq Elders and academics (Dr. Cheryl Bartlett, Elders Albert and Murdena Marshall) from Unama'ki (Cape Breton, Nova Scotia).



Elders Albert and Murdena Marshall

With guidance from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community partners, and Western scientists, the Two-Eyed Seeing Program aims to embrace the guiding principle of Etuaptmumk through various events for Mi'kmaw youth in Nova Scotia. Our goal is to uplift diverse learners interested in hands-on learning and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), while reflecting on Etuaptmumk's key teachings and using Indigenous values.

Our program originally launched as a pilot in 2017 through the National Science and Engineering Council (NSERC) PromoScience Program. In 2025, we marked our 9-year anniversary, made possible through continued support from NSERC PromoScience. We are deeply grateful that this funding has allowed us to establish and maintain our valued partnerships.

Sincerely, thank you to everyone who has supported and trusted us along the way,

STAFF TRANSITIONING

CATHY LEBLANC

A member of Wasoqopa'q Mi'kmaw Nation (Acadia), Cathy has served as our Program Coordinator and Community Liaison since early 2023, playing a key role in developing the Two-Eyed Seeing Program and building meaningful community relationships.



Cathy was recently offered an exciting new job opportunity and, as a result, stepped down from her role with Two-Eyed Seeing at the end of 2025.

She is also the co-creator of Mi'kmaw Moons alongside Dave Chapman. Two-Eyed Seeing will continue to collaborate with Cathy on Mi'kmaw Moons workshops, so you'll still see her around!

Following Cathy's departure, Cheyenne Hardy will be stepping into the role full-time as Program and Communications Coordinator.

We will miss Cathy greatly in her role and are deeply grateful for the knowledge, care, and leadership she brought to the program. We look forward to continuing to work with her in the future.

OUR CORE STAFF



KRISTA COLLIER-JARVIS

University Liaison

Krista, a member of the Mi'kmaq First Nation and a third-generation residential school survivor, teaches Indigenous ways of knowing, American literature, popular culture, and climate fiction. Her doctoral research focuses on zombie narratives, resulting in an Indigenous-infused, multispecies approach to contagion and climate change. Her research has been featured in *Humanities*, *Canadian Jewish Studies*, *Scaffold*, *The Palgrave Handbook of the Zombie*, *American Gothic Studies*, and *Global Indigenous Horror*.



CHEYENNE HARDY

Program and Communications Coordinator

Cheyenne graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University in May 2023 with a Bachelor's degree in Child and Youth Study. She first connected with the program during the 2023 summer community engagement session and has been eager to contribute ever since. While continuously learning, some of her roles include social media content, event planning, and leading new projects.



FLO BLACKETT

Program Support

Flo is a member of Millbrook First Nation, a mother, grandmother, and co-learner. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Human Nutrition, with a minor in sociology, from MSVU. She also has several certifications in information systems from NSCC. She believes her most valued education, however, has and continues to come from her community. Flo works at the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre and is an integral member of the TES Program: developing activities, drumming for events, and building relationships.

OUR 2025 LEADERSHIP TEAM



ANN SYLLIBOY



JANICE FRANCIS



SHANNAN GRANT



SHEILA FRANCIS



TARA PRIDE



WILL SHEAD



VELVET PAUL

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



OUR PROJECTS

01 NEW MOON, NEW YOU

In 2024, we partnered with Native Council of NS, diving into Cathy's book, Mi'kmaw Moons, and setting our goals. This year, we returned to reflect and envision our goals for 2025.

Cathy shared a story about the Spring Time Moon, and we utilized a SMART goal tool to articulate our dreams. Attendees trusted us to share their stories, making it a very impactful and uplifting event.

Cathy has also led this event at the Mik'maw Native Friendship Centre and Mount Saint Vincent University for other groups.



02 LUSKINIKN WORKSHOP AT PIER 21

During March break and Nutrition Month, we worked with Pier 21 and Ann Sylliboy to lead a Luskinikn workshop! 50+ participants made the traditional Mi'kmaw bread while learning about the culture, language, and history.



03 NUTRITION AS MEDICINE (MIJIPJEWEE NA PISUN')

In March, Tuma Young delivered an insightful keynote address at the Science Atlantic Nutrition & Foods Conference, exploring treaties, Mi'kmaw food traditions, and the ties between food, culture, and identity—a powerful reminder of the importance of Two-Eyed Seeing approaches when working with food. We are always grateful for the opportunity to work with and learn from Tuma Young.



04 RED DRESS DAY

On May 5, we attended the MSVU Red Dress Day events. A powerful installation was organized that honoured the lives of the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. It offered a space for learning, reflection, and action. To pay tribute, the Two-Eyed Seeing Program hung a red dress at the installation.



05 ANNUAL GIRL'S CONFERENCE

The annual Girl's Conference, organized by the Alexa McDonough Institute for Women, Gender and Social Justice, took place in May. While the Two-Eyed Seeing Program did not formally take part in this event, our team was in attendance and took part in various ways. Cathy LeBlanc, program coordinator, shared her story as part of the Trailblazer Panel.

Krista Collier-Jarvis, our principal investigator (PI), helped organize the conference. Shannan Grant, past PI and current leadership team member, also volunteered at the event.



06 MSVU PRESIDENT'S FUND SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRAM

In June, we found out the Two-Eyed Seeing Program was selected to receive funding through the MSVU President's Fund Special Project Program! Only four applicants were chosen as recipients of the grant, and we're thrilled that our proposal was one of them. With this support, we were able to work with community members to paint a mural that is now a permanent installation in the MSVU Library. More on that later!



07 VOICE OF THE DRUM

In June, we visited Native Council in their new space to facilitate the Voice of the Drum. We explored how physics reveals the unique voices of each hand drum, using DIY Chladni plates to visualize frequencies, and slinkies to form sound waves. Flo shared her knowledge and opened a great discussion about how physics is all around us in nature...even when we don't see it.



08 KINU TOURISM AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE

In October, we participated in the Kinu Tourism and Education Conference, hosting a pop-up booth where attendees learned about the program and took part in the Seven Sacred Teachings tree activity. We also led a breakout session, “Tree-ty Press-ervation,” which combined plant pressing, traditional stories, and learning about the science of maple trees, including sap tapping and healing time. We were honoured to sponsor the morning cultural showcase and support such a meaningful conference. Thank you to the Kinu team for organizing this!



09 WELIGWET | GROWING WELL



For several years, the MSVU Library displayed materials about MMIWG2S. When the new University Librarian, Jeannie Bail, arrived, she and Krista discussed how the display felt outdated and how it might be triggering for Indigenous students passing by. Together, they applied for support from the President's Fund – Special Projects Program to reimagine the space in collaboration with community.

With this funding, the Two-Eyed Seeing Program partnered with Mi'kmaw artist Jessica Jerome and 14-year-old student artist Grace Campbell-LeBlanc. Alongside Krista and Cheyenne, they created a large mural that now serves as a permanent installation in the MSVU Library.

Weligwet (welikwet/oeligoet) draws on Mi'kmaq visual traditions to explore identity, growth, and interconnection. The mural depicts a woman whose braid transforms into a tree, its roots, trunk, and branches wrapping around her. She represents the vital roles of women in Mi'kmaw traditions, bridging past and future.

The roots symbolize ancestors, knowledge keepers, and family, those who ground us. The branches reach outward, representing growth, progress, and the ongoing journeys of our communities.

In her hands, the woman holds a mirror, inviting viewers to reflect on their relationship to the Mi'kmaq people, Mi'kma'ki, and Mount Saint Vincent University. Wrapped around the mirror is sweetgrass, representing both ecological and medicinal significance, of which there are many, but also of ceremonial and aesthetic prominence.

Across the mural are petroglyphs, such as the peaked hat, six warriors, the L'nu, the eight-point star, and the constellation. These were chosen with community input to represent shared stories and teachings.

At the mural's base are four circular canvases, each created by one of the contributors. Circles hold deep significance in Mi'kmaw culture, representing unity, balance, and continuity. Jessica and Krista's circles reflect those who have guided this work over time, while Cheyenne and Grace's represent those carrying it forward today.

The mural was unveiled on October 22 in a library full of attendees. Jeannie, Krista, Cathy, and Cheyenne each spoke about the project, while Flo and Grace opened the event with the Strong Woman song. Guests enjoyed Indigenous-inspired foods and spent time connecting and celebrating together.

This project was made possible through the generous support of the Mi'kmaq community, MSVU, the incredible artists, and the Two-Eyed Seeing Program, with funding from the MSVU President's Fund for Community Engagement and the NSERC PromoScience Fund.

Visit the mural at the MSVU Library, 15 Lumpkin Rd, Halifax, NS B3M 2J6.

This mural was featured in the Halifax Examiner, a local news site! Readers can access the article via the QR code on the back of this booklet.



10 CO-LEARNING THROUGH LITERATURE

Based on community feedback, we launched a book kit project titled Etuaptmumk: Co-Learning Through Literature. Each kit includes a backpack, four children's books by Mi'kmaw authors (Walking Together, Sweet Grass, Mi'kmaw Moons, and Wolverine + Little Thunder), and an activity book. All activities were developed by our team and are directly tied to the stories in the kits, with additional materials included to support hands-on learning.

The goal of this project is to encourage co-learning, celebrate Mi'kmaw authors, and deepen understanding of Two-Eyed Seeing. Designed for people of all ages, the kits invite families, educators, and individuals to learn together.





We assembled 100 kits and hand-delivered them across the province to schools in Mi'kmaw communities, public libraries, and community members. While we are currently out of kits, we hope to expand the program in 2026.

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelmingly positive feedback and the support that made this project possible. We hope these kits continue to spark curiosity, meaningful conversations, shared learning, and connection across generations.



ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT

When the TES Program hosted camps, the team worked alongside Elders, Knowledge Holders, and community members to develop activities. They were first used by camp participants and later shared publicly.

This year, we revisited some of these activities such as Voice of the Drum and our Luski and Blueberry-Cranberry Sauce recipes. We also developed new activities, including DIY Chladni plates, SMART goal reflections, and activities based on books written by Mi'kmaw authors.



We continue to develop additional activities, with completed resources available on our website via the QR code on the back of this booklet.

These activities are not intended to replace traditional teachings or direct learning with Knowledge Holders or Elders. Rather, they reflect the teachings that have been generously shared with us. We do not claim ownership of this knowledge; instead, we aim to respectfully share what we have learned, in the spirit of Two-Eyed Seeing, to support continued learning.

Our program helps connect communities and schools with Elders and Knowledge Holders, should they wish to book a workshop. Please contact us for more information!

REFLECTIONS

As we reflect on this past year, we are deeply grateful for the relationships that continue to inspire and sustain our work. Learning alongside youth, our visits with Elder Albert, and strengthening connections with Mount Saint Vincent University have all shaped this year in meaningful ways.

We experienced significant growth through new and renewed relationships, including work with the Kinu Tourism project and direct visits with libraries and schools in Mi'kmaw communities across the province. These moments of connection remind us why this work matters.

If we have had the privilege of working with you, thank you for walking alongside us. If not, we warmly invite you to connect with us.

Wela'lin.





SCAN TO LEARN MORE

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!



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